

good question!



VIRUS?

OR

BACTERIA



Bacteria & viruses are EVERYWHERE - air, skin water, you name it!

Yes: Some can make you sick

but: most do not!

in fact 500 different kinds of bacteria live inside you & help you!

knowing about little things can tell you a lot!



bacteria?

So:

Your body is made of cells, like this blood cell

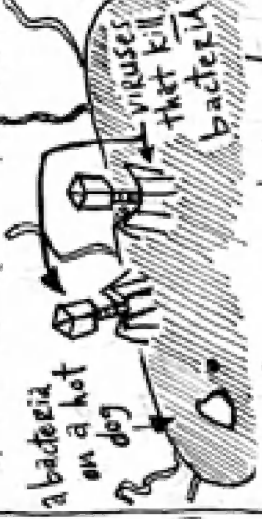


virus! (very tiny)

bacteria are cells too, only smaller

But viruses are not cells, they can't live independently & so they infect cells.

Special viruses that only attack harmful bacteria are being used to keep hot dogs from going bad



Now scientists have actually found some ways to use special bacteria & viruses as medicines...

If you have the flu OR a common cold, you have a VIRUS
If you have strep throat OR pneumonia then the culprit is harmful bacteria

and so it may take you longer to get better next time...

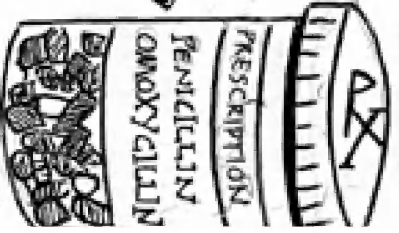


If you take antibiotics when you don't need them, it can actually make the medicine less powerful

and, and, and....

Antibiotics

work only if you have a bacterial infection.



* Don't take antibiotics to cure a cold!

Why?

1 because antibiotics don't fight viruses, which cause